

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-08

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

S E C R E T STATE 101026

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, IT, UR

SUBJECT: ITALIAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHIP
REPAIR FACILITIES IN NAPLES

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REFS:

(A) STATE 96903 (DTG 150145Z APR 78);
(B) USNATO 3778 (DTG 131809Z APR 78);
(C) STATE 90640 (DTG 080122Z APR 78);
(D) NAPLES 702 (DTG 141858Z APR 78) NOTAL

1. USNATO MAY DRAW AS APPROPRIATE UPON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IF NATO PERMREPS MEET TO DISCUSS SOVIET REQUEST FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO NAPLES AND POSSIBLY OTHER ITALIAN PORTS.
2. BEFORE TAKING ANY FORMAL POSITION ON THE SOVIET REQUEST, WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE GREATER PRECISION ABOUT THE SOVIET REQUEST AND THE GOI REACTION.
3. OUR GENERAL CONCERNS ARE COVERED IN THE TALKING POINTS IN PARA 2B, REF C. WE OPPOSE USE OF SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES BY SOVIET VESSELS THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE

TO OR ENHANCE THE USSR'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN WARSHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. SOVIET ACCESS TO SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES IN PORTS LIKE NAPLES THAT HANDLE HEAVY TRAFFIC IN ALLIED WARSHIPS AND SUPPORT VESSELS WOULD BE INIMICAL TO ALLIED, INCLUDING ITALIAN, SECURITY INTERESTS. SUCH A SITUATION CANNOT BE EQUATED TO THE OCCASIONAL USE FOR REPAIRS BY SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS OF US AND OTHER ALLIED PORTS WHERE THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC OF US OR ALLIED NAVAL VESSELS. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD PROBABLY NOT OBJECT TO USE BY SOVIET MERCHANT VESSELS OF ITALIAN PORTS NOT HEAVILY TRAFFICKED BY ALLIED WARSHIPS, THOUGH WE WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE SUCH USE. WE WOULD OPPOSE ANY
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REGULAR ACCESS TO ITALIAN PORTS BY SOVIET WARSHIPS AND THEIR SUPPORT VESSELS.

4. ACCESS OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS TO US PORTS IS REGULATED BY THE US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 29, 1975, AND BY APPLICABLE US LAWS AND POLICIES. THE MARITIME AGREEMENT APPLIES TO COMMERCIAL MARITIME SHIPPING, MERCHANT MARINE TRAINING VESSELS, AND HYDROGRAPHIC, OCEANOGRAPHIC, METEOROLOGICAL, OR TERRESTRIAL MAGNETIC FIELD RESEARCH VESSELS. THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO WARSHIPS AS DEFINED BY THE 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION ON THE HIGH SEAS, VESSELS CARRYING OUT ANY FORM OF STATE FUNCTION UNLESS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT, AND FISHING OR FISHERY-RELATED VESSELS (ARTICLE 1(B)).

5. SOVIET VESSELS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT ARE ENTITLED TO ACCESS ON THE BASIS OF NOTICE GIVEN FOUR DAYS IN ADVANCE TO FORTY US PORTS LISTED IN ANNEX I OF THE AGREEMENT. SIMILARLY, US SHIPS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT ARE ALLOWED FOUR DAY NOTICE ACCESS TO FORTY SOVIET PORTS WHICH ARE ENUMERATED

IN ANNEX II. ACCESS OF SOVIET MERCHANT AND RESEARCH
VESSELS TO PORTS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN ANNEX I
WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.
PERMISSION TO ENTER SUCH PORTS MUST BE REQUESTED
AT LEAST 14 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE INTENDED PORT CALL
AND MAY BE APPROVED OR DENIED. THOUGH IN PRACTICE
WE HAVE NO CLOSED PORTS, REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO SECURITY-
SENSITIVE PORTS LIKE SAN DIEGO OR NORFOLK WOULD BE
DENIED.

6. USNATO MIGHT ALSO WANT TO DRAW UPON REF D.

CHRISTOPHER

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